DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

#### Susan Goldsmith

3124 N. 53rd Place Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dec. 17, 1996

The Honorable Redd Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW, Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

#### Dear Chairman Hundt:

I'm writing today to thank you for your support for affordable access to electronic communications for all the schools in this country. As a governing board member in Scottsdale Unified School District, I've had the pleasure of watching our schools come into the latest information revolution. As a community we have high expectations and strong support for our schools so we have been able to provide equipment for our students. What our students do with this opportunity is truly astounding!

It is particularly important that access to the information revolution not be limited to school districts where parents have ample financial resources, where students are likely to have computers and Internet at home as well as at school. If all America's children are to compete in their 21st Century world, they all must have access now to the equipment and networks that will allow them the opportunity of a level playing field in their young adult and adult lives.

The recommendations of the Joint Board on School and Library Discounts assure all schools affordable access; it provides flexibility to schools to select what they need; and schools will be able to get services to classrooms. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

Sincerely,

Susan Goldsmith

member, Scottsdale School District Governing Board

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Chavinan Red Hundt

1919 H St. WW Room 84 Wildhungton De Zussy 12



# Appleton Area School District

120 E. Harris Street • P.O. Box 2019 • Appleton, WI 54913-2019 • 414-832-6161

Fax: 414-832-1725

December 20, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a Board member of the Appleton Area School District, I wish to express my appreciation for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Please fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

These recommendations will ensure that all schools in our district have truly affordable and accessible services. The plan is also flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their students and families. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital. This will bring service directly to the classroom where students and families can learn.

It is important that Internet discounts are available. In our district, we provide technology for students who, in many cases, do not have computers in their homes. We need to be sure schools can afford this since so many families in our community can not.

I urge you to adopt the complete recommendations as a way to ensure success for students moving into the demands of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Anne Strauch Board of Education

smf

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Appleton Area School District P.O. Box 2019 Appleton, WI 54913-2019



Net 2 6 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554



#### GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Groton, Connecticut

#### **Administration Offices**

1300 Flanders Road • P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut 06340 • (860)572-2100 • FAX (860)572-2107

George M. Reilly, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools greilly@groton.k12.ct.us

James E. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools jmitchel@groton.k12.ct.us

Hugh J. Hunter Business Manager hhunter@groton.k12.ct.us DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 17, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As a Superintendent of Schools in a community that is trying its best to bring the power of telecommunications into instruction, I am delighted to learn that the FCC is about to act on an item that will greatly facilitate our efforts, i.e. the "education rate" school discount in telecommunication charges. I urge you to adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The cost to school districts for bringing technology into the classroom are considerable. Nonetheless, the Groton Public Schools are committed to the effort. This education rate discount will allow us to advance our long range plan more quickly and to use funds that would have been telecommunications charges for such things as upgrading electrical service in our buildings and purchasing challenging instructional software for our students. This education rate discount will increase the use of the Internet by both students and teachers. This recommendation of the Joint Board goes a long way toward leveling the playing field for all districts so that all children will enjoy an equal opportunity to be prepared for the 21st century.

I thank you and the Joint Board for your efforts on behalf of children everywhere.

Sincerely

George M. Reilly, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

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GMR/vb



#### **GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1300 Flanders Road P. O. Box K Groton, Connecticut 06340 - 1411

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

RECEIVED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretar

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 13, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: 11/7 Universal Service Recommended Decision (CC Docket No. 96-45)

#### Dear Chairman Hundt:

The undersigned members of the Massachusetts Universal Access working group wish to register the following comments related to the Federal-State Joint Board's November 7, 1996 Recommended Decision regarding universal service as applied to schools and libraries.

- 1) We strongly support the general thrust of the Recommended Decision and urge the full Commission to adopt a final decision in line with the basic framework recommended by the Joint Board.
- 2) We particularly urge the full Commission to maintain the recommended application of the Universal Service Fund to internal wiring and networking implementation and ongoing costs.
- 3) We urge the Commission to maintain the progressive discount schedule articulated in the Recommended Decision.
- 4) We urge the Commission to provide a nationally coordinated administrative structure with clear accounting guidelines to assist states, schools, libraries, and other affected parties in implementing the final decision.
- 5) We urge the Commission to preserve flexibility for states to expand the scope of services that receive discounted services by expanding contributions to an in-state fund from intrastate charges.
- 6) We urge the Commission to make explicit the accounting procedures for consortia containing eligible and non-eligible entities to access funds in its final decision

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- 7) We urge the full Commission to make explicit the opportunity for public and public-private consortia to access discounts from the Fund for telecommunications and networking services.
- 8) We urge the Commission to promulgate rules in its final decision that allow all public and private service providers including school districts to be able to draw from the Fund for eligible services to eligible entities.
- 9) We urge the full Commission to adopt a distribution of Fund resources to the respective states at rates proportional to the rate in which each state contributes to the Fund rather than "first come first served".

Finally, we urge the Commission to expedite the process of implementing the final decision. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is in the process of making several major decisions related to educational telecommunications which will be profoundly impacted by the timing and details of the Commission's work.

Robert V. Antonucci

Commissioner of Education

Department of Education

Peter Finn

**Executive Director** 

Mass. Assoc. of School Superintendents

Steven Miller

Executive Director

Mass. Network Education Partnership

Mancy Vose Nancy Vose

President

Mass. Computer Using Educators

Kieth Michael Fiels

Director

Mass. Board of Library Commissioners

John G. Flores

**Executive Director** 

Mass. Corp. for Educational Telecom.

Beth Lowd

Business and Education for Schools

and Technology

Isa Zimmerman

Chair

EDCO Technology Task Force



Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

> [DA 96 1891] Released November 18, 1996

## COMMON CARRIER BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE RECOMMENDED DECISION

#### CC DOCKET 96-45

Comment Date:

December 16, 1996

Reply Comment Date:

January 10, 1997

On November 7, 1996, the Federal-State Joint Board adopted a Recommended Decision, as required by Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"), regarding universal service. In the decision, the Joint Board made numerous recommendations on universal service issues including, for example, issues relating to: universal service principles; services eligible for support; support mechanisms for rural, insular, and high cost areas; support for low income consumers; affordability; support for schools, libraries, and health care providers; administration of support mechanisms; and common line cost recovery.

In addition, the Joint Board recommended that the Commission specifically seek additional information and comment on a number of topics including, for example:

- 1. Principles. How should the additional principle of competitive neutrality be defined and applied within the context of universal service?
- 2. Low-Income. What baseline amount of support should be provided to low-income consumers? Is the \$5.25 baseline amount suggested in the Recommended Decision likely to be adequate? How can the FCC avoid the unintended consequence that the increased federal support amount has no direct effect on Lifeline subscribers' rates in many populous states with Lifeline programs, and instead results only in a larger percentage of total support being

#### generated from federal sources?

- 3. Schools/Libraries. What methods should the Commission use for identifying high cost areas for purposes of providing a greater discount to schools and libraries located in high cost areas? What measures of economic advantage may be readily available to identify economically disadvantaged non-public schools and economically disadvantaged libraries or, if none is readily available, what information could be required that would be minimally burdensome?
- 4. Health Care. What is the exact scope of services that should be included in the list of additional services "necessary for the provision of health care" in a state? In responding, commenters should address the telecommunications needs of rural health care providers and the most cost-effective ways to provide these services to rural areas. What would be the relative costs and benefits of supporting technologies and services that require bandwidth higher than 1.544 Mbps? How rapidly is local access to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) expanding in rural areas of the country, and what are the costs likely to be incurred in providing toll-free access to ISPs for health care providers in rural areas? What are the probable costs that would be incurred in eliminating distance-based charges and/or charges on traffic between Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs) (interLATA traffic), where such charges are in excess of those paid by customers in the nearest urban areas of the state? Do insular areas experience a disparity in telecommunications rates between urbanized and non-urbanized areas? Commenters should supply information on the size of citles and other demographic information pertaining to insular areas that might be used to establish the urban rate and rural rate in each of those areas. What costs would be incurred in supporting upgrades to the public switched network necessary to provide services to rural health care providers? To what extent, and on what schedule, might ongoing network modernization, as is currently going forward under private initiative or according to state-sponsored modernization plans, make universal service support for such upgrades unnecessary? What are the probable costs, and the advantages and disadvantages, of supporting upgrades to public switched or backbone networks where such upgrades can be shown to be necessary to deliver eligible services. to rural health care providers?
- 5. Administration. Should contributions for high cost and low-income support mechanisms be based on the intrastate and interstate revenues of carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services, based on the factors enumerated in the Recommended Decision? Should the intrastate nature of the services supported by the high cost and low-income programs have a bearing on the revenue base for assessing funds? Should contributing carriers' abilities to identify separately intrastate and interstate revenues in an evolving telecommunications market and carriers'

incentives to shift revenues between jurisdictions to avoid contributions have a bearing on this question?

We ask parties to address the effects that the Joint Board's recommendations to the Commission are likely to have on small entities and what measures the Commission should undertake to avoid significant economic impact on small business entities as defined by Section 601(3) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. These comments must be filled in accordance with the same filling deadlines as comments on the rest of the Recommended Decision, but they must have a separate and distinct heading designating them as responses to the regulatory flexibility analysis.

The Commission invites interested parties to file comments on the Joint Board's recommendations and on the Commission's legal authority to implement such recommendations. Copies of the Recommended Decision can be obtained from (1) the International Transcription Service (ITS), Room 140, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 or (2) the FCC World Wide Web Home Page: http://www.fcc.gov.

Comments should be filed on or before December 16, 1996 and Reply Comments on or before January 10, 1997. Interested parties must file an original and four copies of their comments with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments should reference CC Docket No. 96-45. Parties should send one copy of their comments to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Room 140, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. Parties must also serve copies of their comments on the individuals identified in the attached service list. After filing, comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties are also asked to submit comments on diskette. Diskette submissions would be in addition to and not a substitute for the formal filing requirements addressed above. Parties submitting diskettes should submit them to Sheryl Todd, Common Carrier Bureau, 2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611, Washington, D.C. 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette in an IBM compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows software in a "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labelled with the party's name, proceeding, and date of submission. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter.



# DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

1800 Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3399 515-242-7843 515-242-7579 Fax

**DIRECTORS** 

December 20, 1996

Elizabeth Goodwin
President

Laura Sands Vice President

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Margaret Borgen

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission

Nadine Hogate

Jane Hein

1919 M Street, NW, Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Harold S. Sandahi III

\_\_\_\_

Mark Schuling

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a school board member of the Des Moines Public Schools, I write to express my support for proposed rules which will provide access by public schools in the Internet at discounted rates. I urge the FCC to adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

ADMINISTRATION

Gary L. Wegenke Superintendent

Jay B. Horstman Secretary

Roger L. Hudson Treasurer Discounts ranging from 20 to 90 percent will permit school districts such as ours to extend Internet services to students. The Des Moines Public Schools is currently writing a technology plan which will include provisions for student and teacher access to the Internet for curricular purposes. Discounts provided by FCC rules will enable us to reduce the high costs associated with installing and maintaining technology and will make the Internet more accessible.

Please move forward with the proposed rules recommended unanimously by the Joint Board.

Sincerely,

Laura Sands Director

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

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WC JOHN JOB



The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

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#### **EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

4949 Liberty Lane, Fourth Floor Wescosville, PA 18106-0667 (610) 530-5300 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3667 Wescosville, PA 18106



December 17, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

**Dear Chairman Hundt:** 

As Superintendent of Schools in the East Penn School School District, I would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools - even the poorest - have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

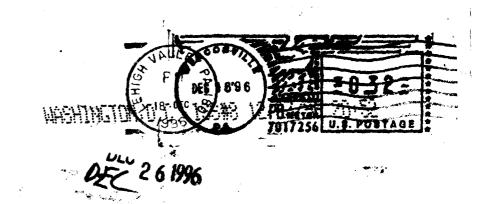
As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our students.

Very **y**ruly yours,

Afrita L. Morgan, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

ALM:crb

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20544

#### MULLINS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

Marion County
P.O. Box 689
Mullins, South Carolina 29574-0689
Phone (803) 464-3700
Fax (803) 464-3705
December 21,1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a federal programs director from Mullins School District No. 2 in Marion County, South Carolina. Thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the information superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools, even the very poorest, have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Mullins School District No. 2, lead by Danny Williams Math/Technology Coordinator, has wired its buildings for networking. This effort was completed with assistance from business and industry representatives, parents, community members, and school personnel who worked a Saturday at each site to string network cable throughout our five buildings. The State of South Carolina is going to provide internet access for each school. While the finance is a State effort, CC Docket No. 95-45 will ensure that funding goes farther and perhaps for a higher quality of service to the schools. We have ordered computers for most classrooms and plan internet access for each classroom in our district. Research will reveal that Marion County is one of the poorest counties in South Carolina. High unemployment and low income are common demographics for this area. This effort will be helpful for the five E.S.E.A. Title I Schoolwide Schools in our small district.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our school citizens.

Director of Federal Programs

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PO SOX 889

MULLINS, SC 29574



The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.c. 20554

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Dr. James F. Shoemake Superintendent

December 19, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

#### Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am president of the school board for the Tacoma Public Schools and I would like to share my appreciation of your work and the work of the joint board in pursuing an affordable access to the Information Superhighway for our public schools. The discount rate of 20 to 90% will ensure that all schools will have affordable access to this important communication tool. In maintaining a flexible plan, schools will be able to select their services that best meet their educational goals. By including the discounts in the area of internal connections, especially Internet access, we will be able to drive exciting learning activities into the classrooms where students can learn and share what they learn across the nation.

In the Tacoma School District we are engaging in an aggressive facilities plan which will include expanding and continuing to develop our technological instructional activities. By passing this imporant resolution, the federal communications commission can assist students in Tacoma, Washington, as well as other districts across the nation, in achieving these goals of access for the children at a much earlier date than expected at the higher rate. As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, we urge you to support this important activity so that our children in Tacoma can take full advantage of everything that is available to enhance their learning.

Sincerely,

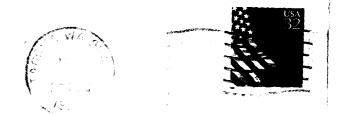
John Lynn

President, Tacoma School Board

JL:pm

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Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors P. O. Box 1357 Tacoma, WA 98401-1357



The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission 26 996
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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# Appleton Area School District

120 E. Harris Street • P.O. Box 2019 • Appleton, WI 54913-2019 • 414-832-6161

Fax: 414-832-1725

December 20, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I serve on the Board of Education for the Appleton Area School District. I wish to express my appreciation for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools in our district have truly affordable access. The plan is also flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their students and families. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital. This will bring service directly to the classroom where students and families can learn.

It is essential in our district that Internet discounts are available. We provide technology for students who, in many cases, do not have computers in their homes. We need to be sure schools can afford this since so many families in our community can not.

I urge you to adopt the complete recommendations as a way to ensure success for students moving into the demands of the 21st century.

Sincerely.

Sharon M. Fenlon, President

**Board of Education** 

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Appleton Area School District P.O. Box 2019 Appleton, WI 54913-2019





The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.D. 20554



### BLUESTEM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #205

P.O. Box 8, Leon, Kansas 67074

Phone: 316/742-3261, FAX: 316/742-9265

· Gary McEachern, Superintendent ·

Bluestem High School • Bluestem Middle School • Leon Elementary • P.O. Box 338 Leon KS 67074 316/742-3281 Dale Harper **Principal** 

625 Mill Road Leon KS 67074 316/742-3263 **David Kohls** Principal

P.O. Box 98 Leon KS 67074 316/742-3291 Debbie Webster Principal

Haverhill Elementary 9110 S.W. Haverhill Rd. Augusta KS 67010 316/775-6904 Kathy Metsker Principal

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 19, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hunt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M. Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hunt.

I am aware of the discussion going on about the service rates for telecommunications to schools. I would like to add my perspective to this discussion. The tools available to the students of our school are very valuable for the educational possibilities. I would urge you and your committee to be aware of the access they can provide to those of us who are educators and students in the small and rural schools of this country. We have had an inter-net connection for only a few days and have already found much valuable, and up-to-date information, which is not available in this timely manner by another source. The ability for our students to access the most current information, and experts, can enable our students to compete with those students of the metropolitan areas as well as the other countries of the world.

I believe that reasonable rates by those providers will actually increase the market demand for their services in the future. As more students are trained and become familiar with the telecommunications services, they will undoubtedly become future customers of the providers.

I am pleased that this issue is being discussed and would encourage you to consider as setting as affordable rates as are possible for educational institutions.

Sincerely yours,

Dale Harper, Pringipal Bluestem High School

Leon, KS 67074

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NCT 2 6 1996

STOTING ...

The Honomable Reed Hunt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M. Street NW Room 314 Washington, DC 20554

#### Educational Excellence . . . Investing In The Future

#### Governing Board:

Aurora C. Gamboa Sue E. Komernicky Sandra L. Malone Gail H. Poe Mark H. Trueblood, D.V.M.



7301 N. 58th Avenue Glendale, AZ 85301 (602) 842-8100

Richard I. Terbush, Ed.D. Superintendent

December 16, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC

CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school board member from Glendale Elementary School District in Glendale, Arizona, and I would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools--even the poorest--have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classrooms where students learn.

The Glendale Elementary School District has recently remodeled 5 of our older schools and at that time installed all of the voice, video and data cabling to every classroom to ensure all our students from kindergarten to 8th grade have access to Internet and other available technology. Our district standard for all new construction includes this cabling as well. We have made a tremendous effort and committed considerable resources to provide our students with the advantages they will need to prepare for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Your support of our efforts to bring the best in technology to our students is greatly appreciated. As you move ahead in your deliberation of this important issues, I urge you to seize the opportunity to bring 21st Century learning to all our school children.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Malone

Governing Board President

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#### Glendale Elementary School District

7301 N. 58th Avenue Glendale, Arizona 85301 A.A.



ner 5 6 1480

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

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